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(*b*) the reason why the excess amount of Rs. 2 is collected more than what is required ;

(*c*) how the balance of Rs. 2 is utilized ; and

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to reduce the fee to Re. 1, the actual expenditure incurred ?

A.—(*a*) A fee of Rs. 3 is levied from gosha ladies in cases where they wish to be examined by a Ammamani. The Ammamani is paid one rupee in the mufassal and one rupee eight annas in the City of Madras.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The Ammamani fee was Rs. 5 in 1866. The Government reduced the fee to Rs. 3 in 1911. They do not consider that any further reduction is necessary, as the main object of fixing the fee at this rate is to restrict the instances in which the agency is employed to cases of real necessity and as under the note to article 8 of the Table of Fees a Registrar has discretion to remit even the entire fee if, in his opinion, the exaction would be productive of hardship. The balance of fee is credited to Government.

Allowances to sub-registrars for attendance for registration in private residences.

421 *Q.*—Mr. K. P. V. S. MUHAMMAD MEERA RAVUTTAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government pay any allowance to the sub-registrars for attendance for registration in private residences in addition to the usual travelling allowance ; and

(*b*) if not, whether they will pay to the sub-registrars in future portion of the fee collected ?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The Government regret they are not able to do so.

Accommodation for gosha ladies in Registration offices.

422 *Q.*—Mr. K. P. V. S. MUHAMMAD MEERA RAVUTTAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the offices of the sub-registrars have any separate accommodation for gosha ladies when they appear before the sub-registrars for registering documents ; and

(*b*) if not, whether the Government will make the necessary arrangements by providing suitable partitions ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) A report has been called for.

III

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

(1) With reference to the answers given to questions Nos. 397, 938 and 1619 at the meetings of the Legislative Council held on 27th August and 31st October 1927 and 28th February 1928 respectively, the Secretary laid on the table copies [a] of reports regarding the repairs to the supply channel to certain tanks in the Kurnool district.

(2) The Secretary laid on the table copies of the list [b] of posts on Rs. 500 and above created during the quarter ending 30th June 1928.

a Printed as Appendix VII on pages 119–135 infra.

b Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 136–138 infra.

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(3) The Secretary laid on the table copies of the following Government Orders :—

(*a*) G.O. No. 815,[a] Development, dated 3rd May 1928, recording the audit report and accounts on the Cinchona department, Madras, for the year ending 31st March 1927.

(*b*) G.O. No. 846, [a] Development, dated 7th May 1928, passing orders on the audit report and accounts of the Russellkonda Saw Mill for the quarter ending 30th September 1927.

IV

ADJOURNMENT MOTION *IN RE* THE SEIZURE OF SUBRAHMANYA BHARATHI'S SONGS BY THE POLICE.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, I ask for leave to move the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the recent action of the City Police in entering upon and searching the premises of the Hindi Prachar Sabha on the High Road, Triplicane, for copies of Subrahmanya Bharathi's songs and seizing nearly two thousand copies of the same."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I understand that there is an application in the High Court and whether this motion will not be barred by the principle of *sub judice* is a matter for consideration."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I make my submission, Sir ? Sir, this is an order made under the new section of the Criminal Procedure Code, No. 99-A, which authorizes any Local Government to declare every copy or issue of a book or newspaper containing such matter to be forfeited to His Majesty. Then, Sir, 99-B says, any person having any interest, in any newspaper, book or other document, in respect of which an order of forfeiture has been made under section 99-A, may within two months from the date of such order, apply to the High Court to set aside such order on the ground that the issue of the newspaper or the book or other document in respect of which the order was made did not contain any seditious or other matter of such a nature as is referred to in sub-section (1) of section 99-A.' Then, Sir, there is another section to which I would invite your attention, section 99-G. No order passed or action taken under section 99-A shall be called in question in any court, otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of section 99-B. Therefore this order is appealable to the High Court only under the restriction contained in 99-G. That is to say no action taken in connexion therewith is appealable. These are the copies of the application which has now been filed in the High Court and that application prays the High Court to revise the order of forfeiture, i.e., the order passed by the Burma Government under section 99-A. So far as this order is concerned under which these copies are seized, and which I seek your leave and the leave of the House to bring forward before this House by means of this adjournment motion, it is passed by the Chief Presidency Magistrate here and on a warrant issued by him in pursuance of the republication of the order of the Burma Government in the issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 11th September 1928. I further want to submit to you that once that order is passed there it is not compulsory on the part of the Madras Government

a Printed separately.